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Peter III. and Catherine II. he attaches, characteristically enough, too much importance to the untrustworthy gossip of Rulhière; that he has a rhetorical aversion to the Turks, and gives a false idea of the respective strength of the opposing fleets at the Battle of Navarino; that his attitude towards "the great emperor" Nicholas I. is in the main sympathetic, while his tone toward the French in the Crimean War is throughout fault-finding and unfair. He abounds in loose and hazardous statements, but it is needless here to point out his errors of detail, some of which are, doubtless, mere slips. For the "general reader" the book contains not a little useful information if he can succeed in extracting and remembering it. Mr. Morfill has a wide knowledge of Slavic history and languages, and a kindly personality shines through his pages, but oh! how could an Oxford professor use the word "researcher"?

ARCHIBALD CARY COOLIDGE.

The Development of Cabinet Government in England. By MARY TAYLOR BLAUVELT, M.A. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1902. Pp. xvi, 300.)

IN this volume the author shows the historical origin of the English Cabinet and traces the successive steps in its development. The discussion begins with the differentiation of the Cabinet from the Privy Council and ends with the early years of the reign of Queen Victoria. The author has done her work well and has made a valuable contribution to historical and political literature. The importance of the subject can scarcely be overestimated. The Cabinet is the most important feature of the English government. It sways and guides the House of Commons, which is the real governing power in England; and its history has never before been presented in monographic form. Traill, Todd, Anson and others have given us brief sketches of the development of special phases of the Cabinet but the subject has never before been treated in a connected and detailed way. This has been well done in the volume now under discussion, and the book has, therefore, a distinct place in the literature of the subject.

The author's task has not been an easy one. The development of the Cabinet has extended over a long period of time, hence it was necessary to work over an immense amount of historical material. This appears to have been conscientiously done as the author, for the most part, has consulted the original sources. Some readers will regret that the author did not see fit to bring the discussion down to a somewhat later period. The book practically closes with the accession of Queen Victoria, and there are some interesting phases of Cabinet development in the reign of the late Queen which might well be made the subject of an additional chapter. Such a continuation would add force and a degree of completeness to the volume which it now lacks. In fact the concluding pages of the book are weak because of too great condensation.

While the book is a good substantial piece of work, it might be improved in some respects. It does not show so great a degree of familiarity with the actual practice of the English government as might be desired. The printed sources have been studied with great care but there is much information concerning the actual working of the government which is "in the air" and not in books or documents. This phase has not been developed as fully as it might be. An illustration will serve to make my meaning clear. On page 2 the author remarks: "He [the Prime Minister] is appointed nominally by the Crown, but where the ruling party has a distinctly recognized leader, the Crown has no choice but to appoint this leader. When there is no such preëminent leadership, the Crown may choose from among the two or three most prominent members of the party." This is the usual way of putting it, but the latter part of the statement is somewhat misleading. It is no longer true that "when there is no such preëminent leadership, the Crown may choose from among the two or three most prominent members of the party." The Crown has practically no choice even in such a case as this. The appointment of Lord Rosebery in 1894 is a case in point. When Mr. Gladstone resigned the premiership in that year there was no "recognized leader" in the liberal party besides himself. It might seem then that Queen Victoria would have been free to choose the Premier from the "two or three most prominent members of the party" then in power. This was not true, however. Lord Rosebery and Sir William Vernon-Harcourt were the two most conspicuous men in the Liberal party at the time, aside from Mr. Gladstone. Both of these men had been prominently mentioned in connection with the premiership, but the choice was not left to the Queen. A conference of Liberal leaders decided to recommend the appointment of Lord Rosebery, and he was accordingly chosen. No one expected that the Queen would disregard the wishes of the party leaders. No one now supposes that King Edward exercised his free choice in the appointment of Mr. Balfour. There was no alternative. Had he preferred Joseph Chamberlain he would not have been able to elevate him to the premiership against the wishes of the leaders of the Conservative party. It is now safe to say that the appointment of the Premier is, in practice, dictated by the party leaders, and that the Crown exercises no discretion in the matter whatever. It should be said, however, that in the neglect of the practical side of the subject our author has not erred more grievously than the larger majority of those who discuss the English government. The older writers following Blackstone and tradition, have elaborated the theory and ignored the practice. A few later writers, following the refreshing example of Bagehot, have ventured to show that the practice does not always coincide with the theory.

The book is not as satisfactory from the standpoint of good English as it is from that of historical excellence. It cannot be said to be well written. The book lacks definiteness and precision of statement throughout, and not infrequently the construction of its sentences is decidedly

faulty. However, the above defects are by no means vital, and the volume is, on the whole, a worthy one. T. F. MORAN.

The Scotch-Irish, or the Scot in North Britain, North Ireland, and North America. By CHARLES A. HANNA. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1902. Two vols., pp. ix, 623; 602.)

THERE is a story of a certain sick judge who instructed his daughter when reading books to him to read only the quotations. She would have had much to read if she were dealing with Mr. Hanna's volumes. In truth they are mostly all quotations. No one can deny that as a result much varied information is imparted, but what we have is not a history, as the title implies, not even well arranged materials for a history, but a collection of materials, much irrelevant, which might be worked up into a history of the Scotch-Irish. It seems a pity that Mr. Hanna has not done this working up himself, but he has not even attempted it, nay he frankly avows that "these volumes are designed to serve as an introduction to a series of Historical Collections" "relating to the early Scotch-Irish settlements in America," and so we are as far away as ever from what is really a desideratum, a history of the Scotch-Irish.

Let us now see what Mr. Hanna has given us. Volume I. contains very sketchy and far from exhaustive chapters upon the Scotch-Irish and the Revolution, the Scotch-Irish and the Constitution, and other themes connected with their early history in this country, with a view to show that by all odds they were the most important factor in the formation of the republic. Much of the proof consists in naming the nationality or ancestry of the prominent men in the early American days, which reveals that they were Scotch-Irish in a surprising proportion of cases. The notes to these chapters are valuable because of their quotations and references. With the eighth chapter, Mr. Hanna begins a new cycle. He now abandons the Scotch-Irish in America to their fate and for thirty-one chapters leads us through Scottish, English and Irish history. Premising that we are entirely ignorant of all knowledge of the history of those countries he presents us with hundreds of pages of excerpts from the sources and from standard historians. True, some of the material thus brought together is inaccessible and all of it is in itself valuable, but it seems a pity that so much should have little to do with the declared object of the volumes. We could have spared the space given to Scots and Picts, Norse and Angles and such like. We fear few will read the excerpts from the English Chronicles. We then get down to the Great Ulster Plantation and the Emigration thence to America.

Volume II. has only five chapters. "The American Union" (5 pp.) showing it was a Simon-pure Presbyterian product, "Seventeenth Century Emigration from Scotland and Ulster," in which Theodore Roosevelt is claimed for Presbyterianism (!); "The Seaboard Colonies"; "Pennsylvania," "The Settlements Enumerated." Then follow the "Appendixes," excerpt matter upon the themes treated in the previous part of the volumes; a "Scotch-Irish Bibliography,"